

COUNCIL BRIEFS

December 4, 2015

A very happy Thanksgiving: The Social Services Division distributed grocery gift cards to about 330 households they could purchase food for Thanksgiving. Those served include low-income West Hartford residents, both elderly and families with young children. The gift cards were purchased using donations to the Town That Cares, a program that is funded through the generosity of the community.

Holiday Wish Tree: Help make the holiday season bright for a child in need by selecting a tag from the Holiday Wish Tree in the Town Hall lobby. Each tag contains information about one West Hartford youngster with appropriate gift card suggestions to reflect the age, gender and interests of the recipient. The Department of Human & Leisure Services will distribute the gift cards at the Town's Holiday Children's Party on December 17. The party is held annually in the town hall auditorium for children from low-income families. Please bring donations to Room 306 by December 14. For more information, call 561-7561.

Three new Firefighters: On November 30 the West Hartford Fire Department welcomed three new Firefighters. They are:

Rocco Laudato attended Western CT State University and recently received his paramedic license from Bridgeport Hospital where he was previously employed. He has received certifications for Firefighter I and II and HazMat/WMD.

Peter O'Hara is a licensed paramedic and worked for the Brewster Ambulance Company. He is a former US Marine who served in Iraq and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Valor.

Amanda Winn is a licensed paramedic and provided advanced life support care for American Medical Response. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from Anna Maria College.

Parking incentive offered to businesses: This holiday season the Town will provide West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square merchants discount codes to give to their customers when they use PassportParking.

Each participating merchant will receive 20 unique discount codes valued at \$1.75 for one hour parking plus the 25¢ convenience fee. The one hour free parking offer is for new and existing PassportParking app users. To receive the discount codes, businesses should contact the Municipal Parking Management Office at whmp@westhartfordct.gov or 860-561-8220.

PassportParking provides visitors with the ultimate convenience by performing the transaction from their mobile devices. To date, there are over 4800 app users

Dec. 8th Public Meeting on Park Road/I-84 improvements: The Town will hold a public information meeting on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 PM in Room 314 to discuss traffic and landscaping concerns that were raised during the previous meeting, last April. This meeting will also be an opportunity for the public to share additional feedback regarding the project. Those who are unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to contact the Engineering Division at (860) 561-7540 to provide input.

The \$5.1 million project involves the relocation of the Interstate 84 off-ramp so it is adjacent to the existing on-ramp. The ramp relocation will improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion. The off-ramp will also be re-graded and widened to provide an additional left turn lane, which will increase capacity and improve the off-ramp safety. Park Road will be widened on the south side to create an additional travel lane and left turn lanes. Pedestrian and bicyclist enhancements will also be incorporated. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2017. [Click here for more information.](#)

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager